

**CITY OF
COVINGTON**

SPECIAL ELECTION
May 17, 2005

**Local
VOTERS**

本區選民手冊
此選民手冊有中文版本可供索取。
詳情請參閱此手冊封底的表格。

PAMPHLET

Published by: King County Records, Elections & Licensing Services Division

King County Voter Information

Voter Qualifications

To register to vote in King County, you must be:

- a citizen of the United States
- a legal resident of Washington state
- at least 18 years old by election day

Registration Deadlines for New Applications

You may register to vote at any time, but keep in mind that there are registration deadlines prior to each election. In order to vote in an election, you must be registered by mail or through the Motor Voter program at least **30 days** before an election. For the May 17, 2005 Special Election, the deadline is April 16, 2005. If you miss the 30-day deadline, you can still register in time for an election if you register **in person**, at the King County Elections Office no later than **15 days** before the election. For the May Special Election, the deadline for in-person registration is May 2, 2005. However, you must vote by absentee ballot, for this Special Election.

How to Register

Complete a voter registration form and mail it in according to the instructions described on the form. Forms are available from King County Records, Elections and Licensing Services Division, public libraries, public schools, fire stations, city/town halls and from the King County Elections' Internet website at www.metrokc.gov/elections/register.htm, click on voter registration form, and select the language version you want.

Keep Your Voter Registration Up-to-date

If your voter registration record does not contain your **current** name or address, it may affect your voting status. ***Note the deadline for changes.*** Changes to your name and address must be made **30 days before** an election to legally entitle you to vote using your new name or to vote in the precinct associated with your new address. Use the mail-in voter registration form to send your name or address change to the Elections Office.

Absentee/Mail-in Ballots

Any registered voter may vote by absentee/mail-in ballot. You do not have to be ill or "absent" to have a ballot mailed to you.

The request for an absentee/mail-in ballot must be made to the Elections Office (not to the Secretary of State). You may request an absentee ballot as early as 90 days before an election. (No absentee ballots are issued on election day except to hospitalized voters or as replacements for lost absentee ballots previously issued.)

One-time absentee ballot requests may be made either by phone, fax, e-mail or by regular mail. You may also sign up to receive an absentee ballot for all future elections. Just check the "Yes" box in the Ongoing Absentee Voter Request section of the Mail-in Registration Form or complete and send in a signed Absentee/Mail-in Ballot Request Form, a copy of which is provided in this voter pamphlet.

If you do not receive your absentee ballot or you have lost it, please notify the Elections Office at the telephone numbers, mailing address or e-mail address listed below. Voted absentee and mail-in ballots must be signed and postmarked or delivered to the Elections Office **on or before** election day.

If you have already requested or have a permanent request for an absentee/mail-in ballot on file, please do not submit another application.

Election Date and Poll Hours

This Special Election takes place on May 17, 2005. The polling places are available for voting from 7:00 in the morning and continue until 8:00 in the evening on election day.

Services and Additional Assistance

If you have questions concerning election related matters, voting, ballots, or locating your polling place, please contact King County Elections Office at the following telephone numbers or addresses:

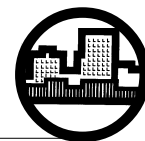
Phone - 206.296.8683 or TTY 206.296.0109

Mail or In-person - King County Records, Elections and Licensing Services Division
King County Administration Building
500 4th Avenue Room 553, Seattle, WA 98104

Internet - <http://www.metrokc.gov/elections>, e-mail — elections@metrokc.gov

City of Covington

Referendum No. 1



Official Ballot Title

REFERENDUM NO. 1 IMPOSING A UTILITY TAX ON THE INCOME OF CERTAIN UTILITY PROVIDERS OPERATING WITHIN COVINGTON

The City Council for the City of Covington passed Ordinance No. 26-04, concerning the addition of a utility tax chapter to the Covington Municipal Code, and voters have filed a sufficient referendum petition on this ordinance. The ordinance would institute a 3-1/2% tax on the gross income of telephone, light and power, solid waste collection, gas distribution and cable television businesses operating within Covington. The proceeds collected would be dedicated to specific City Funds as follows: 57.14% to the Capital Improvement Program Fund; 28.57% to the Street Maintenance Fund; and 14.29% to the General Fund. This utility tax would terminate without further action of the City on February 29, 2008.

Should this Ordinance be:

☐ Approved ☐ Rejected

Explanatory Statement

If approved by the voters, Referendum No. 1 would uphold and implement a new chapter of the Covington Municipal Code relating to Utility Taxes. The Chapter would impose a 3 1/2% tax on the gross income of certain utility companies operating within the City. It would apply to telephone, power, solid waste collection, natural gas and cable television businesses. These utilities are authorized by law to pass these taxes through to the City ratepayers.

This chapter of the Municipal Code also contains a sunset clause meaning the tax imposed would automatically terminate on February 29, 2008 without further action of the City Council.

The ordinance allocates the proceeds generated into specific funds. 57.14% of the proceeds would go to the Capital Facilities Program Fund. This fund provides the financing of new street, stormwater, and park improvements. 28.57% of the proceeds would go to the Street Maintenance Fund. This fund provides the financing for traffic signal and pothole repair and related maintenance tasks. 14.29% of the proceeds would go to the General Fund. This fund provides the financing for the majority of city services including public safety, code enforcement and parks maintenance and operations.

This chapter further provides a Tax Relief process on the power and gas utility taxes paid by eligible low income senior citizens or disabled persons. Applications for a rebate of those taxes paid may be made at the end of each calendar year and will be refunded upon adequate proof of eligibility and payment.

Statement for

On May 17, the citizens of Covington will vote to determine the future of our city. Approval of this Referendum will fund police officers, road improvements, parks and safe school walkways. Without approval, these services and amenities could be lost.

Due to the elimination of State sales tax equalization dollars, the Council voted to implement a short-term utility tax to bridge that \$750,000 revenue loss until sales tax from new business arrives.

This tax is short-term only. It automatically ends in 3 years.

Our council has not raised property taxes in three years and has been fiscally responsible by reducing staff by 25%; however, we need a short-term solution to this budget shortfall.

The Covington Chamber of Commerce supports this Referendum as it provides the foundation for the healthy business climate required to attract the goods and services that our community wants and needs.

Referendum 1 will help continue Covington's success by providing public safety personnel, maintenance to sustain our parks, and necessary road improvements.

Covington is a wonderful, unique community. Your APPROVAL will provide police officers, safe school walkways, road improvements, and healthy growth in our business community.

Invest in Covington's Future...Approve Referendum #1.

Rebuttal of statement against

No rhetoric, only fact. Covington is growing and thriving, and needs upkeep and improvements to maintain our quality of life and attract new business.

The tax rate is 3-1/2% **NOT** the 5% stated by the opposition.

Approval of Referendum 1 will provide police officers, safe school walkways, road improvements, and healthy growth in our business community.

Once again, this tax is short-term only. It automatically ends in 3 years.

Don't be fooled by misinformation.

STATEMENT PREPARED BY: Kevin Holland, Sonia Foss, Jackie Baker

Statement against

STOP THE NONSENSE BY VOTING TO "REJECT REFERENDUM 1"

Are you finding it more and more difficult to maintain your present standard of living? Tired of being taxed to death and working longer and harder only to give more of your hard earned money to the government?

The City would have you believe that the proposed UTILITY TAX (now 5%-letter from city manager dated 1/28/05) won't really affect you, or that "it's a nothing tax;" beware of this type of deception as it is completely inaccurate and untrue. If approved, council can increase the tax rate to 6% without ANY voter debate or approval! A utility tax automatically increases annually as your utility bills increase. There is no recourse!

The tax indirectly increases most all costs for goods and services in Covington. **DO NOT BE DECEIVED!** That's not good for you and it's definitely NOT good for Covington. So, beware of all of the irresponsible rhetoric of why the City needs the money—remember its rhetoric. State and county taxes are increasing, costs for electricity and gasoline are increasing, plus a new Covington Parks tax is coming this fall – can you afford yet **another** tax? "REJECT" Referendum 1!

Rebuttal of statement for

Public safety is the **FIRST PRIORITY** of the city. Revenue shortfalls were apparent in 2002 yet the city continued to spend and ignore the problem.

Name 3 taxes that have "sunset!" Other short-term financial solutions are available.

City staff salaries increased 15% in 2004-05.

Businesses will pass their increased costs on to the consumer.

Make a stand now or the first snowflakes of "temporary" tax increases will turn into an avalanche of future tax burden!

STATEMENT PREPARED BY: Julie Holbrook, Robert L. Millard, Wayne Ward

Absentee/Mail Ballot Request

索取缺席/郵寄選票

Mail to: ABSENTEE/MAIL BALLOT

請寄至: 缺席/郵寄選票

King County Administration Bldg., Room 553
500 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

I hereby declare that I am a registered voter. Please use a pen and print legibly.

我現今聲明我已是登記選民。請用墨筆或鉛筆正楷書寫

Registration No. (if known)

選民登記號碼, 如知道 _____ - _____ - _____

Registered Name

登記姓名 _____

Street Address

居住地址 _____

Apt/Unit

單位號數 _____

City

城市 _____

Zip

郵號 _____

Mailing Address:

郵寄地址: _____

City

城市 _____

Zip

郵號 _____

Telephone: (Day)

電話: (日) _____

(Eve)

(晚) _____

Birth date

出生日期 _____

For this request to be valid, you must sign below.

必須簽署姓名方有效

Signature

簽名 _____

Date

日期 _____

This request is for:

此要求是為:

All future elections

為所有未來的選舉。

☐

One election only

Please specify which election:

一次選舉用。請寫明選舉日期: _____

☐

Unless you request a Chinese ballot in the box below,
an English ballot will be mailed to you.

除特別在下段表明要中文選票外, 寄出的選票皆屬英文版本。

Check the appropriate box(es) below if you would
like a Chinese ballot or a Chinese voters' pamphlet:

若要中文選票和/或中文選民手冊, 請勾選適當的方格:

Chinese ballot

中文選票

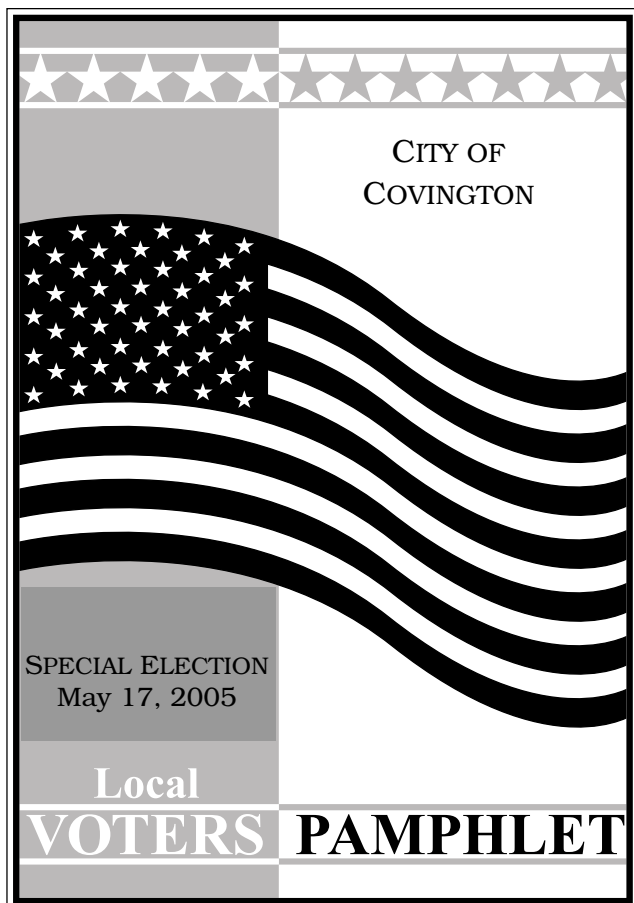
☐

Chinese voters' pamphlet

中文選民手冊

☐

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Edition 1